

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1444

To amend the Head Start Act to increase the reservation of funds for programs for low-income families with very young children, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22 (legislative day, JULY 21), 2003

Mr. HARKIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Head Start Act to increase the reservation of funds for programs for low-income families with very young children, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) All babies and toddlers need positive early
6 learning experiences to foster their intellectual, so-
7 cial, and emotional development and to lay the foun-
8 dation for later school success.

1 (2) Babies and toddlers living in high-risk envi-
2 ronments need additional supports to promote their
3 healthy growth and development. Disparities in chil-
4 dren’s cognitive and social abilities become evident
5 well before the children enter Head Start or pre-kin-
6 dergarten programs at age 4.

7 (3) The congressionally mandated National
8 Evaluation of Early Head Start, a rigorous, large-
9 scale, random-assignment evaluation, concluded that
10 Early Head Start programs are making a positive
11 difference in areas associated with children’s success
12 in school, family self-sufficiency, and parental sup-
13 port of child development.

14 (4) Only 3 percent of all estimated eligible fam-
15 ilies with babies and toddlers are currently being
16 served in Early Head Start programs.

17 **SEC. 2. RESERVATIONS.**

18 Section 640(a)(6)(A) of the Head Start Act (42
19 U.S.C. 9835(a)(6)(A)) is amended by striking “7.5 per-
20 cent” and all that follows through “2003” and inserting
21 “10 percent for fiscal year 2003, 12 percent for fiscal year
22 2004, 14 percent for fiscal year 2005, 16 percent for fiscal
23 year 2006, 18 percent for fiscal year 2007, and 20 percent
24 for fiscal year 2008”.

1 **SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**

2 Section 639 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9834)
3 is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “1999 through
5 2003” and inserting “2003 through 2008”; and

6 (2) in subsection (b)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1)—

8 (i) by striking “1999 through 2003”
9 and inserting “2003 through 2008”; and

10 (ii) by striking “fiscal year 1998” and
11 inserting “fiscal year 2002”;

12 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “1999
13 through 2003” and inserting “2003 through
14 2008”; and

15 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “fiscal
16 year 1999, and such sums as may be necessary
17 for each of fiscal years 2000 through 2003”
18 and inserting “fiscal year 2003, and such sums
19 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
20 2004 through 2008”.

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